

Meeting Minutes



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Meeting: Advisory Committee Meeting

Project: 30759—Redmond Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan

Meeting Date: January 31, 2007

Meeting Time: 12:00 to 2:00 PM

Location: City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Ray Anspach, Marie McEwen, Howard Harrison, Bob Yoder—Community Members
Chuck Steele—WA Department of Ecology
Priscilla Kaufmann—King County
Kim Dietz, Steve Hitch —City of Redmond
John Knutson, Laurie Wood—Otak

Minutes By: Laurie Wood

Redmond Flood Management Advisory Committee Meeting

Introductions

- Steve Hitch, Stormwater Engineer for the City of Redmond (City), began the meeting by welcoming the committee members and introducing himself.
- The committee members, in turn, introduced themselves and described their interest in serving on the Flood Management Advisory Committee (FMAC).

Purpose of Redmond's Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan

- Steve described the reasons the City initiated the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP) project. The impetus behind the project was a Community Assistance Visit by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) in 2003 to evaluate the effectiveness of the City's flood hazard management program. Following this visit, the City updated some of its procedures and Critical Areas Ordinances. After reviewing its policies and procedures, the City recognized a need for a flood hazard management plan document that described its program, evaluated the program's effectiveness, and identified projects or programmatic improvements.
- Flood pictures were shown to illustrate some of Redmond's existing flood problems.

This information has been recorded in accordance with our applicable standard of professional care. If we do not receive any comments within five days of receipt, we will finalize these minutes as drafted for the project file.

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- Steve explained what the CFHMP would include: City's policies and procedures related to frequently flooded areas, structural and non-structural alternatives to address problems, and an action plan to address identified problems.
- Steve described the benefits of the CFHMP: enhancement of floodplain management, reduction in flood hazards and damage, balance of overlapping needs within watershed, access to more funding sources, and credits for reduction in flood insurance rates.
- Steve described the City's Natural Resources Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The 6-year CIP is a list of the needed natural resource and stormwater projects to alleviate problems caused by existing development and to prevent future problems resulting from planned development. The projects are listed by priority and whether they are presently funded or not. Stormwater projects include flooding and erosion and sedimentation control. Currently, three habitat projects are being completed. Steve stated that Redmond is looking for ways to improve habitats in the region without increasing flooding problems.
- Steve also provided a list of the funding sources for the CFHMP project; fifty percent of the cost of the program was being contributed through Ecology's Flood Control Account Assistance Program (FCAAP), and fifty percent was coming from the City's Stormwater Utility Funds.

Background Information

- John Knutson stated that the purpose of this first FMAC meeting was to "lay the groundwork" for the future FMAC meetings by describing the project scope, the principles of comprehensive flood hazard management, the CFHMP planning requirements and steps, and the phases of the CFHMP development process.

The Department of Ecology provides a "cookbook" for the CFHMP process which is described in their publication "Comprehensive Planning for Flood Hazard Management", 1991. The development of a CFHMP is an ongoing and adaptive process. It is important to continually evaluate what is working and what is not.

Differences of opinions will occur during the planning process, but it is important that all parties have a voice in determining the direction of the project. The CFHMP seeks to plan floodplain use by balancing resource protection, environmental enhancement, flood damage protection, and land use development.

- John reviewed the current status of the project. Background information regarding the physical characteristics of the study area has been gathered and reviewed. The flood history has been documented, and previous studies have been collected, including the King County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and the 2006 King County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. The Flood Management Advisory Committee has been formed. The draft chapters 1 and 2 have been completed. Chapters 3 and 4 are almost complete. These chapters describe the physical characteristics of the area, the flood history, and previous studies.

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- John described the Community Rating System (CRS) and how it relates to the CFHMP. The CRS is a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that encourages communities to initiate new flood protection activities. The benefit in participating in the CRS is lower insurance premiums. A community is awarded points for development of a CFHMP. These points can be used to qualify for the CRS program.

Role of the Flood Management Advisory Committee

- John described the role of the FMAC as crucial to the ultimate success of the CFHMP. The purpose of the FMAC is to ensure that the CFHMP reflects local needs and perspectives. The committee plays an active role in determining the goals and objectives of the CFHMP and selecting solutions. The committee also provides support for the adoption of the CFHMP by the city council.

Initial Identification of Existing Flood Problems

- John stated the next part of the meeting would be used to identify existing flood problems. John also mentioned that the focus of the CFHMP is on flood problems and not drainage issues within the floodplain.
- Steve mentioned more flooding occurred during the 2005 flood event than the 2006. There was some overtopping of the banks of the Sammamish River around NE 116th Street and NE 124th Street. Steve mentioned that there was more Lake Sammamish flooding during the 2006 event.
- Ray Anspach and Marie McEwen both mentioned an interest in reducing flood insurance rates.
- The accuracy of the FEMA flood maps was discussed. Some of the FEMA data used for delineating the floodplain dates back to the 1960's. Priscilla Kaufmann stated the 2006 King County CFHMP listed updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the Sammamish River as a "proposed action." Priscilla said this project would begin once King County secured funding.
- Next, large maps of Redmond's floodplain were laid out on the conference tables. The committee members were asked to mark on the maps the locations and description of flooding issues they were aware of. The identified flood problems would be compiled into list and presented at the next meeting.

Determine Date and Purpose of Next Meeting

- A tentative date of March 28th was decided for the next meeting.
- Steve mentioned the purpose of the next meeting would be to review the identified existing flood problems and to begin establishing goals and objectives.

At the end of the meeting, handouts were distributed to each committee member. These handouts included the drafts of chapters 1 and 2 of Redmond's CFHMP, definition of CFHMP terms, examples of structural and non-structural alternatives, and a map of Redmond's floodplain.